

23 APR 1954

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

AIR

2003

~~XC~~GC-W-491

: Acting Chief of Station, Guatemala City

: Chief, WHD

INFO: LINCOLN

- Alfredo ~~CHOCANO~~ Becerra

- C] - Guatemala

1. []
2. [] attended the Guatemalan Army Day reception at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., on 20 October 1953. During a conversation with CHOCANO, after asking the informant what he thought of the speeches made by John M. CABOT, Assistant Secretary of State, on 9 October 1953, in Boston, and on 14 October 1953, in Washington, D. C., in which he made statements pertaining to Guatemala, CHOCANO stated that he had notified the Guatemalan government that Mr. CABOT's speeches fell flat and got relatively little play in the American newspapers.
3. [] added that he had also had a conversation with his host at the Army Day reception, Colonel Enrique PERALTA, Military Attache of the Guatemalan Embassy, who told him that he, PERALTA, was above all a Guatemalan and a soldier sworn to defend his country and abstain from politics. PERALTA stated, however, that if the Communists, who now surround the Guatemalan government, were to attempt to take over, he, PERALTA, would "flatten them out," politics or no politics. PERALTA added that he is a friend of the United States and wants to remain that way, and that he also wants to see Guatemala respected by this country.
4. [] said that in the course of his conversation with PERALTA he had learned that PERALTA is on very close terms with the present President of Guatemala in that he had been more or less of an instructor to the President on military affairs. He stated that he believed that, as a result of this, any ideas put over with PERALTA in regard to the desired relations of the United States with Guatemala would be presented to the President in a way favorable to the United States.

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5. The above is forwarded for your information and the completion of your files.

OLIVER G. GALBOND

23 April 1954

Distribution:

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